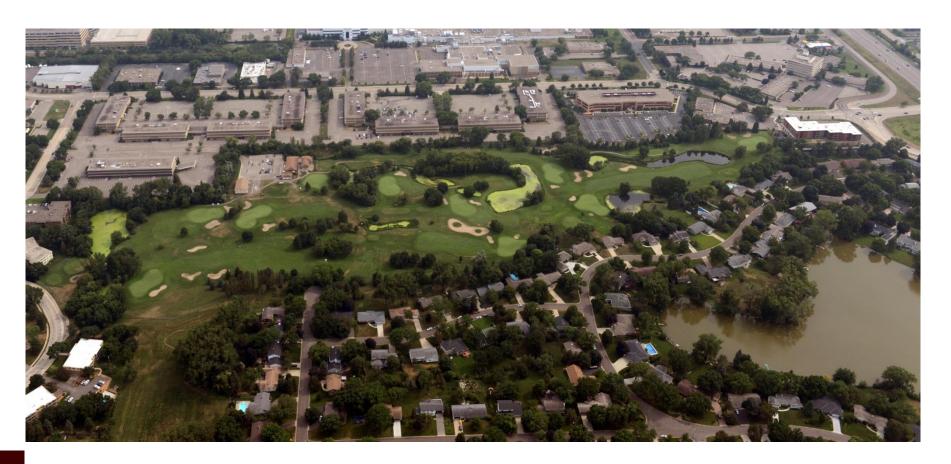
Fred Richards Repurpose Process

Second Public Meeting

July 30, 2014



Agenda

- Steps in the process
- Overall schedule
- Common themes from Park Board and public outreach process
- Vision master plan overview (conceptual)
- Discussion





Steps in the Process

- Starting Point: Council's decision to close the course
- Step 1: Create a set of principles and vision for the site based on findings from this public process; Park Board and City Council set parameters for "highest and best public use" of the property as an outcome
- Step 2: Prepare a detailed master plan for the site consistent with the vision and City Council direction
- Step 3: Develop funding package
- Step 4: Prepare construction documents, bid project, and undertake construction

Overall Schedule

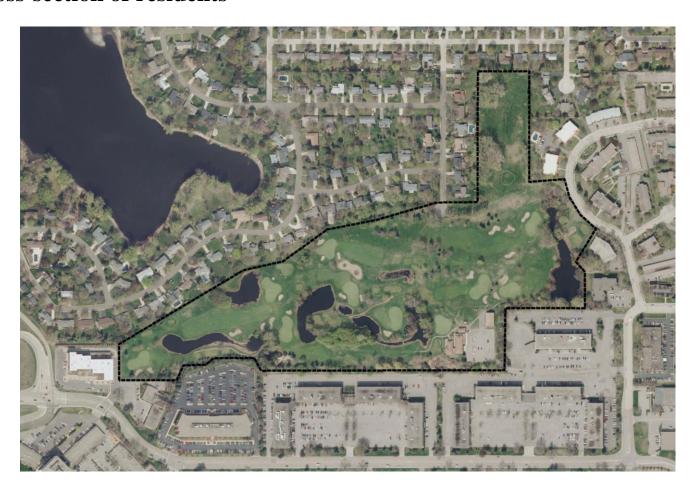
- April 22: Award consultant contract
- June 12: Public Input Process Begins
- June 13 end of July: Various stakeholder meetings
- June 21 and July 9 Site walks (resident focus)
- July 30 Second public open house
- August 4: Council work session
- August 11: Park Board work session
- August 12 end of September additional public input (dates to be determined based on findings from previous meetings)

Target Completion Timeline

- October 6 Review and Recommendation by Park Board
- October 21 Review and Approval by City Council

Planning Context

■ Consensus: Fred Richards site should become a community park and serve a cross-section of residents



Park Board: Common Themes

- Create a unique park experience focusing on getting children and families outdoors
- Provide a pleasant place for nearby businesses to use during work days
- Serve the park needs of the entire community, versus a select group or neighborhood



Park Board: Park Use Trends and Facility Demands

- Sports fields especially soccer and lacrosse; youth age groups
- New forms of recreation be open to emerging forms of recreation that appeal to different age groups
- Urban agriculture expanding on the community garden theme
- Outdoor adventure provide unique and adventuresome play areas that go beyond typical play equipment
- Attract hard to reach groups especially 15 to 18 year age group
- Develop the park for all seasons

Park Board (continued)

- Accommodate groups repurpose clubhouse for flexible use; consider additional modest-sized shelters for group use
- Integrate the regional trail consider a "bike library" (bikes, trikes, and other peddle-power vehicles for public use)
- Buffering buffer views from both inside and outside park
- Provide adequate but not excessive parking work with
 Pentagon Park developer to provide off-site shared parking
- Meet needs, but be cautious about overbuilding
 - □ Larger scale amenities such as community center, indoor athletic facilities, competitive pool, etc. are <u>not</u> well-suited for this park

Public Outreach

- Public process was open to all individuals and groups
- **■** The public outreach process included:
 - □ Open public meetings (including comment cards)
 - □ Resident-focused site walks
 - □ Online comment forms
 - □ Speak Up, Edina!
 - □ Direct emails (to staff)
 - ☐ Interviews with the Pentagon Park developer
 - ☐ Interviews with a cross-section of nearby apartment owners and local businesses
 - □ Review of past surveys
- Additional public comment will be sought as part of park system planning process

Common Themes from Public Outreach

- Create a well-designed community park that serves all residents
- Provide for a diversity of uses offering a friendly and inviting social environment
- Create a park that is unique and innovative go beyond typical features to make the park more interesting
- Enhance natural qualities of the park including the appearance of ponds and using more natural buffers
- Manage vehicular and pedestrian access to ensure ease of access and limit disruption to established neighborhoods

Neighborhood-Related Issues

- Adequately buffer adjacent properties naturalized buffer is preferred
- Prevent parking and vehicle access from disrupting the neighborhood
- Locate active use areas away from residential areas
- Keep the regional trail on the south side
- Limit pedestrian access from the north
- Limit lighting to critical areas do not provide field lighting





Local Businesses and Pentagon Park Developer

- Consistent with the themes already described
- Seeking simple, well-designed features like trails, sitting areas, and picnic areas
- Easy access to small meeting spaces within the park would be beneficial
- Access to active recreational facilities is also important to encourage fitness and wellness
- Pentagon Park team engaged in process to ensure mutual understanding of issues and desired outcomes



Vision Master Plan Overview

- Strives to find the right balance between active recreational uses and preserving open space and sense of place
- Provides a variety of recreational opportunities, but shows restraint in the size and location of the built footprint
- Approximately 35% of the park would be developed for active recreational uses, with 65% for passive, or "quiet," forms of recreation, park trails, open space, agriculture, ponding areas, and buffers

Conceptual Vision Master Plan

■ Recreational features envisioned for the park provide a well-rounded palette of activities for families and individuals to enjoy



Parkway Corridor and Parking

- Ensures ease of access to the park from the south
- Allows for shared use of parking lots with adjacent commercial properties
- Creates an appealing buffer between the park and future commercial development
- Onsite parking will be provided to meet anticipated day-to-day use of the park
- Design will evolve as part of a coordinated effort with Pentagon Park development





Regional Trail

- Serves a broad range of local and non-local users
- Located on the south side of the park to minimize potential for use conflicts
- Separated corridor helps alleviate concerns about overuse of internal park trails
- Trailhead facilities will be integrated into the park design



Internal Park Trails

Park trails will be hardsurfaced for accessibility and durability, but the surface treatment could be different to distinguish them from the regional trail



- Internal park trails provide a stand-alone park amenity, along with access to the various park uses
- In contrast to the regional trail, these trails will have a more intimate and curvilinear character

Community Activities Area

- Focuses on repurposing the clubhouse and creating complementary outdoor spaces
- Accommodates a wide-range of activities and user groups, and provides an appealing place to spontaneously gather, socialize, and simply hang out
- Outdoor design features may include arbors, ornamental planting, benches, etc.; art pieces may also be part of the design theme
- Restrooms and possibly vending will be available to park users; warming house provided in winter





Adventure Play Area

- Robustly engages youth and teens in appealing non-programmed outdoor activities
- Provides a variety of play and outdoor adventure components for the very young through the 15-18 year old age groups
- Younger age groups theme-based adventuretype play features; design creativity is critical to making this a feature that children will be eager to return to time and again
- Adding a splash pad can help take the play area to the next level





Adventure Play (continued)

- Older age groups provide a challenging outdoor adventure-based recreational area space; types of features include:
 - □ Slack lines
 - □ Bouldering rock and/or climbing wall
 - □ Ropes ladder and/or course, along with cargo nets
 - **□** Balance logs or beams
- Repurposing part of the existing maintenance building as part of an indooroutdoor adventure play area offers numerous possibilities







Field Games Area

- Field games area covers approximately 6 acres; envisioned as a well-maintained green space for youth-oriented sports
- Field access, parking, and restrooms will all be on the south side; trees and natural buffers on the north side
- Accommodating other forms of established and/or emerging field games and activities is worth considering – Wiffleball, Futsal, Footvolley, and Puckelball





Urban Agriculture Area

 Area for growing produce for personal consumption, food shelves, sold locally, or used for cooking classes

Features include:

- \Box Fenced field area 2 to 3 acres
- □ Shed and shelter structure for storing equipment and organizing activities
- □ Utility service water, electricity, etc.
- ☐ Maybe include three-season shelter for indoor/outdoor space for classes, farm-to-table events, and general group use





Open Parkland Area

- Passive use (walking, sitting on a bench) is the focus, as is "quiet" active recreation (yoga, Frisbee, flying a kite)
- Key elements envisioned for this area include:
 - ☐ Curvilinear walking trails (separate from regional trail)
 - ☐ Sitting areas includes shade structure, arbor, and/or vegetation
 - □ Lawn areas for casual recreation and informal play
- Physical features include ponds, expanded natural areas, and pockets of maintained lawn





Naturalized Buffers

- Naturalized buffers are envisioned along the northern property line
- Buffers mutually benefit park users and adjacent homeowners
- Park user's perspective: Preserve park's sense of place while walking along a trail, and to avoid feeling like you are intruding into someone's backyard
- Homeowner's perspective: Maintain a sense of privacy while still providing select views of the park





Technical Considerations and Challenges

- Poor site soils which are prone to saturation and general instability
- Wetlands all of the current ponds and waterways are protected; every attempt must be made to avoid displacing existing ponds and wetlands
- Water management issues complicate onsite stormwater and wetland protection issues; there is a need for additional stormwater management capacity throughout the watershed – including this site





Discussion

■ Comment on overall direction, plus thoughts on specific features or park uses, etc.

- Protocol:
 - □ Individual residents first
 - □ Local user groups second
 - □ Special interest groups third

Conceptual Vision Master Plan

■ Recreational features envisioned for the park provide a well-rounded palette of activities for families and individuals to enjoy



Additional Opportunities for Comment

Fred Richards Repurpose webpage:

http://edinamn.gov/fred-richards-repurpose